

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 MCT-01 HA-05 AID-05 CCO-00 FBOE-00
OC-06 OPR-02 USSS-00 CA-01 A-01 SCS-06 OMB-01
SY-05 (ISO) W
-----035730 232254Z /63

R 230829Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7503
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 3082

PLEASE POUCH TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW FOR INFORMATION

HONG KONG: FOR RSS

CINCPAC: FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ASEC, PINS, US, AF
SUBJECT: DEMONSTRATIONS FOLLOWING MURDER OF AFGHAN COMM-
UNIST LEADER

REF: KABUL 3019

1. FOLLOWING THE ANTI-AMERICAN DEMONSTRATION IN FRONT OF
THE AMERICAN EMBASSY ON APRIL 19 (REFTEL), THERE WERE NO OTHER
NOTEWORTHY INCIDENTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE BURIAL LATER
THAT DAY OF MIR AKBAR KHAIBAR, A SLAIN LEADER OF AFGHANISTAN'S
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"KHALQ" PARTY (A PRO-MOSCOW COMMUNIST ORGANIZATION WHICH,
ALTHOUGH NOT LEGAL UNDER THE AFGHAN CONSTITUTION, IS PER-
MITTED TO OPERATE RATHER OPENZIXGERE). OTHER OBSERVERS
OF THE GIANT PARADE CONFIRMED THDQHSKASSY'S EARLIER ESTIMATE
OF APPROXIMATELY 15,000 PARTICIPANTS. AN ADDITIONAL ANTI-
AMERICAN SLOGAN HEARD BY SOME PERSONS NEAR OUR EMBASSY INVOLVED
AN ATTACK AGAINST "AMERICAN IMPERIALISM". MARCHING WITH THE

STUDENT-AGE RANKS WERE NQSE ONE HUNDRED LOCAL SIKHS AND A NUMBER OF HAZARAS, A MINORITY WHICH SITS RESTLESSLY AT THE BOTTOM OF THE AFGHAN ETHNIC TOTEM POLE.

2. THE "FATEHA" MEMORIAL SERVICE WAS HELD FOR KHAIBAR ON APRIL 20 AT KABUL'S SHAMSHERA MOSQUE. APPROXIMATELY FOUR TO FIVE THOUSAND KHALQ MEMBERS WERE IN FRONT OF THE BUILDING WITH RED FLAGS, RED FLOWERS, AND RED BADGES. SOME TWENTY THOUSAND PERSONS FLOWED THROUGH THE MOSQUE DURING THE TWO-HOUR SERVICE (ATTENDEES AT A "FATEHA" STAY ONLY A FEW MINUTES TO SIGNIFY THEIR RESPECT FOR THE DEPARTED). OF THIS TOTAL, PERHAPS SOME TWENTY PERCENT WERE THERE TO HONOR ANOTHER RECENTLY DECEASED KABULI WHOSE OWN "FATEHA" WAS BEING CONDUCTED IN THE SAME CHAMBER. THE TWO PRINCIPAL "FATEHA TAKERS" FOR KHAIBAR WERE NUR MOHAMMAD TARAHI AND BABRAK KARMAL, RESPECTIVELY, THE KHALQ'S NUMBER ONE AND NUMBER TWO LEADERS. THERE WERE NO DEMONSTRATIONS DURING OR FOLLOWING THE FATEHA.

3. ON APRIL 22, THE ACTING DCM, DURING THE COURSE OF DISCUSSION OF OTHER MATTERS WITH DEPUTY CHIEF OF PROTOCOL ABDULLAH YAHYA TARZI, PRESENTED A MILD ORAL PROTEST, STATING THAT WE ARE CONCERNED THAT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY WAS NOT NOTIFIED IN ADVANCE OF THE FUNERAL PROCESSION. WE WERE SURPRISED THAT THE EMBASSY WAS NOT ACCORDED EXTRA POLICE PROTECTION DURING THIS DEMONSTRATION. TARZI REPLIED THAT THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT KNOW THAT AN ANTI-AMERICAN DEMONSTRATION WOULD OCCUR
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AND WAS UNHAPPY WITH WHAT IT HAD HEARD ABOUT THE DEMONSTRATION. HE FURTHER STATED THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO CHECK ON THIS MATTER AND GET BACK TO US.

4. COMMENT: THE EMBASSY DOES NOT EXPECT ANY MORE ANTI-AMERICAN DEMONSTRATIONS TO GROW OUT OF THIS PARTICULAR INCIDENT. WE PLAN TO SUBMIT A FULLER ANALYSIS OF THESE RECENT EVENTS ON APRIL 24.
ELIOT

NOTE BY OCT: NOT POUCHED BY OCT.

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NNN

Message Attributes

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